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Home Circle

(Continued from Fifth Page)

be covered about an inch deep with fresh sandy soil, raked perfectly smooth, and the places for the bulbs marked upon it. This is easily done by pressing a stick down edgewise.

The prevailing colors, reds, blues and whites, should be mingled in the bed, the rare yellow bulbs being counted as whites. The object of this mingling is two-fold. It not only adds to the beauty of the bed when in bloom, but secures self-hybrids, and consequently, seeds for new varieties. In setting the roots each one should be surrounded by a little of the fresh sandy soil, to prevent the richer earth from at first adhering too closely to them. They should be planted deeply, not less than three or four inches, according to the size of the bulb. A covering should be at hand to protect the bed from any unusually heavy frost. Dead leaves or dry grass will answer the purpose.

In March, or the beginning of April, the plants will begin to show their flowers. These early birds will need some shelter from the fall rays of the sun, for if too much sunlight falls on them, especially on the reds and blues, it will blacken and tarnish their colors. Proper shading will also tend to keep back the too early bulbs, so that they will come into full bloom later on, with the balance of the bed. The stems will need support, and small sticks or wires will give it. Place them closely behind the bulbs and tie the stem loosely with soft material, like yarn or double zephyr. This need not be done until the plants begin to bend and show that they are in danger of breaking with the weight of their blooms. As the stems grow taller the sticks may have to be replaced accordingly. When the bulk of the hyacinths are in full bloom, a covering or awning should be stretched over the bed during the heat of the day, and also when there is a strong wind or heavy rain. The cover need not be expensive; burlap, from feed bags, or common cheesecloth, will answer the purpose as well as anything else. The cover must not be waterproof, and ought to be so arranged that it can be slipped back or opened up to admit plenty of air and the tempered warmth of the sun on partly cloudy days and in the early mornings and evenings. It is the strong midday sun that must be guarded against.

After the bloom is over, the dryer the bulbs are kept the better. The awning shelter, although so necessary at times, has a tendency to weaken the bulbs. Therefore it should not be continued for more than ten days or two weeks after the bulbs are done blooming, or, in fact, after they begin to decline. Then the bulbs will be all the better for a full exposure to the rays of the sun. And after this? Well, then we cannot do better than follow the methods of the Holland grower, who has centuries of experience behind him.

In three or four weeks after the bloom is over the plants begin to assume a crestfallen, rattles appearance, as though weary of well-doing. This is the signal for action. Take them up and cut off the stems and foliage within half an inch of the bulb, leaving the fibers attached to it. Then lay the bulbs again on the bed, sideways, with their points to the north, and cover them half an inch deep with dry earth or sand. Leave them this way for three weeks, to dry and ripen gradually. Shelter the bed from the full rays of the sun and from heavy rains, but let the air circulate freely beneath the cover. At the end of the three weeks take up the bulbs and rub the fibers gently, until they are all off. Then put the bulbs in a dry room for a few days, then clean off any soil that may be still adhering, together with such offsets as may have formed, and can be easily parted from their parent. When this dressing, as it is called, is completed, wrap each bulb in a separate piece of paper, or pack it in dry sand, and keep in a cool place, to remain until the next planting time.

As to the treatment and value of the offsets, we will have a little talk about them next week. There are those, too, among our Circle, who would like to have some points as to raising hyacinths in the house in water, and this also will be for the next time.

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Florida Opinions

BUT ONE FLORIDA.

To the people seeking a home in the South to avoid the rigors and disagreeable features of the long, cold winters, there is no more attractive locality than the great pineapple belt on Indian river.

During the past ten years this section has been transformed from what was practically a wilderness until now it blooms like a rose and bears fruit like a garden. It is one of the richest sections in the United States and its residents are enabled to live with less effort and greater comfort and pleasure than any other place in the country.

Every year there are nearly one million dollars' worth of pineapples shipped from this section to the markets of the world. The orange and grapefruit industry have been increasing of late years until almost half this amount of these fruits will be shipped this year. Beans, tomatoes, sweet and Irish potatoes, peppers, lettuce, celery, okra and other vegetables are grown and shipped in quantities.

Watermelons, guavas, mangos, persimmons and many other varieties of fruits are grown here. All the year round there is something to be shipped to the market. In the summer the pineapples are picked and shipped, and the other fruits and vegetables are shipped in the fall, winter and spring.

The climate is the most equable in the world, and the most delightful. With the exception of two or three months in the summer it is the best kind of weather, and even then it never reaches to the extreme heat experienced in many places in the North, and there is always a fine breeze from the ocean and river.

There are hundreds of elegant homes in this section, and more are being built every year. The land is being bought up rapidly, and this section, with Fort Pierce as the county seat of the new county of St. Lucie, and the center of trade, will become one of the most desirable in the State. Land can be bought at reasonable rates and cleared at a nominal price.—Fort Pierce News.

A LOSS TO THE STATE.

Senator Frank Adams of Hamilton County has stated that he would not be a candidate for reelection next year. Senator Adams has served his people for the past twelve years, has twice been elected president of that honorable body, is one of the brainiest men in the State, a fine orator, true to his convictions and the honor reposed in him, and stands at the top of the column of the public men in Florida, and the vacancy caused by his refusal to again represent them is one hard to fill.

The next session of the Legislature will be the most important in the history of Florida, and it is such men as Adams that the people need in the State Senate. When the time comes, if he still refuses to serve, it will not only be a loss to Hamilton County, but the State as well.

As Governor, Congressman or United States Senator, he would be an honor to Florida.—Dade City Star.

LIKE HIS STYLE.

Editor John M. Caldwell of the Jasper News is out for reform and for the interests of the taxpayers. When Mr. Caldwell took charge of the News he made an announcement, wherein he says:

"In the publication of the news we trust that the occasion may never arise which may render it necessary for us to take any part in party nor factional politics. The burning question of the hour is not this man's success nor that party's triumph, but how the taxpayers of the State may lessen the burdens which are heaped upon them—burdens which are increased by every successive Legislature—how to stop the reckless extravagance of many departments of our public institutions; how to restrain the contemplated raids on the pocket-books of the taxpayers for many hundreds of thousands of dollars more, and the best methods to insure an economical government by the people and the relegation of grafters to the quiet shades of private life."

A new variety of potato has been developed in Venezuela that grows better in damp than in dry soil, yielding 17 per cent of starch in wet soil, against 10 per cent in dry. It also gives better returns in quantity per acre.